St. Valentine

Feast Day: February 14th

Patron Saint of beekeepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, happy marriages, love, and young people.

St. Valentine, officially known as St. Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely associated with "courtly love." St. Valentine is often represented in pictures with birds and roses.

Although much of St. Valentine's life is not reliably known, many different legends are attributed to the man.

St. Valentine and his faith were often put to the test. At one point in his life, he was told to restore a judge's blind daughter's sight to prove the validity of Jesus, and he did just that.

St. Valentine was later arrested for trying to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius II. Stories tell that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius.

St. Valentine and Claudius got along until St. Valentine attempted to convert Claudius to Christianity. Claudius became enraged and sentenced him to death, demanding he renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269.

One variation of St. Valentine's life states that while imprisoned he healed a jailer's blind daughter and on the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."

Historical accounts claim Valentine's Day was created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia, and exactly when the holiday became associated with romance is not widely agreed upon.

ST. VALENTINE RELICS AROUND THE WORLD

Rome, IT
Dublin, IE
Prague, CZ
Chelmno, PL
Roquemaure, FR Vienna, AT
Balzan, MT
Glasgow, SC

Relics of St. Valentine can be found all over the world, including a flower-crowned skull of St. Valentine in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome.

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